

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, will the Senator from West Virginia yield?

Mr. BYRD. Yes, I yield.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, first, I thank the Senator from West Virginia. Last week, when it seemed as if everybody, except the Senator from West Virginia, the Senator from South Dakota, the Senator from Mississippi, and the Senator from Alaska were bailing out of this place, the Senator from West Virginia was very kind to let me use his office for a hearing. I say this for the benefit of the Senator from Alaska, who is present, that we can find space for these things. We had, I believe, five judges for whom we held hearings. While everybody else was leaving, the Senator from West Virginia made his office available so we could hold those hearings.

I do want to thank the one Republican who came for part of those hearings to help us out with the hearings. Of course, I thank the distinguished Senators from New York and Massachusetts and others on the Democratic side who stayed during the hearings.

As the Senator from West Virginia knows—and he knows these appropriations bills better than anybody else, but for those who might not know—this foreign operations bill has, of course, \$5 million for our Middle East Camp David partners: Israel, Egypt, and Jordan. It also has one item that people may not be aware of: \$175 million to strengthen surveillance and response to outbreaks of infectious diseases overseas, a very interesting part because the Ebola plague or anything else is only an airplane flight away from our shores, and we have this money to alert us about anything that is coming from overseas, including anthrax and other matters that might be an airplane ride or a postage stamp away from our shores. We have \$175 million that we put in before these attacks, but we cannot get it to the President for signature.

We also have \$327 million for antiterrorism efforts helping other nations strengthen the security of their borders and their nuclear and biological and chemical weapons programs. I know the President has been telling these other nations we will get the money to them, but it is stuck in this bill. And the \$450 million for steps to combat HIV and AIDS—each day this bill is being held up, another 17,000 people are infected with AIDS.

We have \$3.9 billion in military assistance included for a number of those countries in eastern Europe and central Asia that we are asking to help us in overflight and refueling. We have a whole lot of money saying the check is in the mail but, of course, we cannot send it. We have a billion dollars in refugee and disaster aid to deal with the humanitarian crisis around the world from Afghanistan to Sudan, also money the President wants to use but we cannot move forward with it.

We have hundreds of millions of dollars to reduce poverty and disease in

countries where the Osama bin Ladens of the world tried to foment resentment against the United States. We have money to help those countries but, of course, it is held up.

I mention that not because the Senator from West Virginia does not know. I daresay there is nobody in the administration, the Congress, or anywhere else who knows every jot and tittle of these bills the way the Senator from West Virginia does, but I thought I would let some of the other Members know and the White House know all the various things the President has promised and we are holding up by not going forward with this bill.

I thank the distinguished Senator from West Virginia for his help because he has been like the granite quarries of Vermont. He stands rock solid, as he always has.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, will the Senator from West Virginia yield?

Mr. BYRD. I will be happy to yield.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I wish to congratulate our leaders, both our majority leader and minority leader, for the excellent way they have handled the quite difficult situation we are in. As a Chair of a committee that has a finished bill which has passed in committee and is ready for floor action, I thank the Senator from West Virginia for urging us to move our bills.

I also assure him that the District of Columbia appropriations bill is ready to come to the floor, and I would be willing to work with him and with the leader to limit amendments so we could have votes on some of the items where there is disagreement, but there are not many items, and to remind everyone that Senator DEWINE and I have worked very closely, particularly on a provision to reform and strengthen the court system in D.C. to protect children who are in foster care, to strengthen the District's school system which is so important.

Most importantly, today there is money in this bill for security measures for the District of Columbia. That is very important as we work on our emergency plans regionally as well as coordinate what is happening in the postal situation today, and the Capitol complex.

I thank the Senator from West Virginia for bringing this to our attention and, as one of the Chairs on our side, I am most certainly willing to work with him as to any suggestions he might have to move our bill, have limited debate, limited time and move this support bill through the process in an expedited fashion.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the distinguished Senator from Louisiana for her comments.

Mr. President, I have been increasingly concerned we are moving toward an omnibus appropriations bill. I am afraid if we continue on this path we are going to end up with an omnibus CR in which a good many or most of the agencies of this Government will be operating probably on the same level of

appropriations they received for fiscal year 2001.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, in time of war to have the administration be tied to a CR, to have interpretations by lawyers throughout the Government as to what they can and cannot do, I think is putting the country in a straitjacket. I happened to have been chief counsel of a department in the Eisenhower days, and it is impossible for administrators to proceed during a period of emergency under what we call a continuing resolution. We must have individual bills and we must have them cleared, particularly in the areas where there is great concern in the country.

I think agriculture is one, defense is another, but clearly we should not be operating under a CR, in my judgment. It is impossible to proceed under the concept of having to have every single dollar checked against a question of whether it was involved in the last year. A CR is really continuing the problems of the past fiscal year into the next fiscal year. At a time of war we should not have that happen.

So I urge we move separately on the bills and get them done as quickly as possible, I say to the Senator. I think we should get our caucuses today at noon to make a pledge to the leader that we are ready to proceed as rapidly as we can to get these bills done.

Mr. BYRD. I thank my friend on the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. President, I do not intend to hold the floor much longer. But I appeal to all Senators to work together to get these appropriations bills up before the Senate, and let's act upon them. We should not go home with an omnibus bill, an omnibus CR.

I don't know what the problem is, but I do know we need to get on with the appropriations bills. I don't see why appropriations should be held up because of nominations. I don't have any dog in that fight. I am ready to vote for nominations. I am ready to go on to the appropriations. But we simply can't hold up the appropriations bills like we are doing. It would seem to me Senators ought to get together on both sides of the aisle and work out this problem. For those who are concerned about nominations, I don't think appropriations should be held up because of nominations. What does the one have to do with the other? Many of these appropriations bills have been on the calendar now for more than 3 months, and they are just sitting there.

So I appeal to our Members on both sides of the aisle to try to work together and let's get on with the appropriations bills. We are just marking time. We are not doing any good. The people out there, they are not concerned about our little problems—nominations versus appropriations. What does the one have to do with the other?

We are going to be held responsible for the fact that we are not working; we are not acting; we are not getting things done. What about our Rangers